

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Objection to the drawings

Revised Figure 4 is shown in the "Replacement Sheets" of drawing appended herewith. Figure 4 has been corrected to include a lead line corresponding to reference numeral 11, obviating the Examiner's objection. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Objections to the specification

The specification stands objected to because of certain informalities. The examiner's suggested corrections are noted with appreciation. The specification has been amended to incorporate the corrections identified and suggested by the examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim objections

Claim 4 presently stands objected to for informalities. Specifically, the examiner notes that in line 4 of claim 4, the phrase "a enhanced gas" should read "an enhanced gas." Claim 4 has been amended to correct the phrase as suggested by the examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested. Additional amendments have been made to correct minor grammatical errors in the claims.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 presently stand rejected as being anticipated by Albrecht et al (U.S. 6,254,128), and claims 3, 6, 7, and 9-11 are rejected as being unpatentable over Albrecht in view of additional references. However, the examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8, rendering claim 1 allowable as indicated by the examiner, and claim 8 has been cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-7 and 9-12, are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

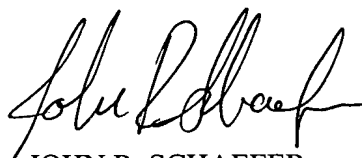
In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-7 and 9-12 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Date: December 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Schaefer", written in a cursive style.

JOHN R. SCHAEFER
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